



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates weekly water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory by sampling for Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity, which is a measure of water clarity, advises the public of the following:

DPNR performed water quality analysis at the 34 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of November 16-20, 2015. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

Stoney Ground
Protestant Cay
Buccaneer
Cramer Park
New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)

Dorsch
Frederiksted Public Beach
Pelican Cove (Comorant)
Shoy's
Rainbow
Cane Bay

Chenay Bay
Gentle Winds
Princess (Condo Row)
Grapetree Bay

St. Thomas

Magen's Bay
Lindquist
Coki point
Vessup Bay
Brewer's Bay

Bluebeards
Secret Harbor
Bolongo Bay
Sapphire
Water Bay

St. John

Oppenhiemer

Johnson Bay

The following beaches **do not meet water quality standards because they exceed the established Enterococci Bacteria threshold and therefore are not considered to be safe for swimming or fishing:**

St. Croix

Halfpenny

St. John

Frank Bay

Cruz Bay

Great Cruz Bay

St. Thomas

Frenchman's Bay

Hull Bay

Lindbergh Bay

High levels of Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity may be caused by runoff due to heavy rains, heavy marine vessel traffic, high wave activity near the shoreline, irresponsible recreational use, etc. Runoff can consist of sediment, pesticides, animal feces and oil & grease, all of which are harmful to the waters of the Territory.

DPNR will continue to monitor these popular swimming areas. DPNR also recommends that you use your own discretion when swimming or fishing at the designated beaches. If the waters appear muddy or murky or have foul odors, do not swim or fish. For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix.